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211-1  
MIDCAREER

20 May 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Mr. Colby's Remarks to Midcareer Course  
No. 46 on 25 April 1975

1. Mr. Colby opened by saying that the Midcareer Course was indeed a splendid course, the type that gave you an opportunity to stand back and assess the total Agency.

2. He said he recognized that the class would be most interested in what was happening today, particularly with regard to the investigative committees. Mr. Colby acknowledged that CIA had made a few missteps in its long history, and that it was healthy to have the committees take a good look at the Agency and the Intelligence Community to reevaluate their structure and roles. He believes the result will be a restructuring of the Agency, and hopefully better guidelines that will bring the entire Community more in line with the current thinking in American society and government. Colby thought this whole investigative process will probably recur in another twenty-five years or so, and the committees will not understand certain decisions made back in 1975. Already the committee members (Presidential and Senate Select) have come away with a high regard for the Agency employee, and an appreciation that "Intelligence" is not the business conducted by Mata Haries and Maxwell Smarts but rather a process utilizing a high degree of technology, far-out thinking and deep analysis. One impact of the investigations is the substantial dropoff of covert action.

3. The impact of technology has been dramatic, and will continue to accelerate beyond our wildest dreams. Mr. Colby said that we have had great technological success that hopefully will continue in the future. He stated that the liberal arts and scientific cultures must move closer together in understanding and cooperation to make the Agency more effective.

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4. Mr. Colby emphasized his satisfaction with the Agency's demonstrated ability to handle two intense crises at one time--in the Middle East and Indochina. He added that during the 1960's he would have thought this impossible, but now anticipates that we may have to handle as many as ten crisis situations simultaneously in the future.

5. The Director declared that President Ford has publicly supported the Agency because he recognized our capabilities and value. For example, NSC meetings always begin with an intelligence briefing. Secretaries Kissinger and Schlesinger may not always agree, but this is less important than the fact that our input is presented and evaluated by the President and the other NSC members:

6. Mr. Colby again reiterated the importance of protecting sources and methods. He hopes that one outcome of the investigations will be better legislation toward that end.

7. Responding to a question concerning the Agency's "image," Mr. Colby said that he was personally trying to improve that image by speaking to various groups and admitted that these efforts were not always successful. He said that he hoped that our image would improve eventually by the increased awareness of the Agency's activities and recognition that we were not merely a collection of "cloak and dagger operatives," but rather a mix of scientists, economists, and representatives from other disciplines engaged in sophisticated collection and analytical work.

8. Mr. Colby felt that our relationship with the FBI was in good shape, adding that there was a paper now on his desk clearly defining (

activities discussed personally by Mr. Colby and Our mission is to collect foreign intelligence both in this country and abroad. Mr. Colby said that the benchmark word is "coordination" when discussing Agency-FBI relations.

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9. Mr. Colby responded to a question on President Kennedy's assassination by flatly stating we had no involvement. He added that if they (presumably the investigation committees) want to review the Warren Report we will be happy to drag out all the old papers, and that he would readily testify that we were not involved.

10. He concluded by thanking all for being so attentive, and wished them success. He said that he hoped he would see them again in the Senior Seminar.



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Midcareer Course C6-Chairman

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